

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 11, 18, and 19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing a snow flake query comprising:
  - (a) organizing a database with a fact table and multiple dimension tables into a snow flake query configuration;  
reducing the snow flake configuration to a star configuration by combining a first generation child dimension table rooted at the fact table and all subsequent dimension tables rooted at said first generation child dimension table into creating a logical node comprised of a child dimension table and all dimension tables rooted at said child dimension table; and
    - (b) determining commitment of said logical node for push down to a fact table for execution of a query; and  
pushing down said logical node to said fact table responsive to a positive commitment,  
wherein the step of pushing down said logical node to said fact table includes each dimension table rooted at said first generation child dimension table in said logical node
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining commitment of said logical node for push down to said fact table includes committing an optimal number of logical nodes for push down to said fact table.
3. Cancel
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining commitment of said logical node for push down to said fact table includes calculating a cumulative selectivity for said logical node.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of calculating a cumulative selectivity for said logical node includes a representation of all selectivities from all dimension

tables in said logical node.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining commitment of said logical node for push down to said fact table excludes a dimension table in said logical node from further consideration.
7. (Currently Amended) A system for optimization of a snow flake query, comprising:  
a database having a fact table; and at least two child dimension tables;  
a logical node comprised of a child dimension table rooted at the fact table with  
and all subsequent generation dimension tables rooted to said at the child dimension table; and  
an optimization module adapted to ~~pledge~~ push down said logical node ~~for push~~  
~~down~~ to said fact table for execution of a query of said database.
8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said optimization module is adapted to commit an optimal number of logical nodes for push down to said fact table.
9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein creation of said logical node reduces a snow flake schema to a star schema.
10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said optimization module comprises means for calculation of a cumulative selectivity for said logical node.
11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said calculation means includes a representation of all selectivities for all dimension tables in said logical node.
12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said logical node reduces search space traversal.
13. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:  
a computer-readable ~~signal-bearing~~ medium;

means in the medium for storing data in a relational database having a fact table and at least two child dimension tables, wherein said tables are organized in a snow flake query configuration;

means in the medium for reducing the snow flake configuration to a star configuration by combining a first generation child dimension table rooted at the fact table and all subsequent dimension tables rooted at said first generation creating a logical node comprised of said child dimension table into a logical node and all dimension tables rooted at said child dimension table; and

means in the medium for determining commitment of said logical node for push down to said fact table; and

means for pushing down said logical node to said fact table responsive to a positive commitment.

14. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 13, wherein the medium is ~~selected from a group consisting of:~~ a recordable data storage medium; ~~and a modulated carrier signal.~~
15. (Original) The article of claim 13, wherein said means for determining commitment of said logical node for push down to said fact table includes committing an optimal quantity of logical nodes for push down to said fact table.
16. Cancel
17. (Original) The article of claim 13, wherein said means for determining commitment of said logical node for push down to said fact table includes means for calculating a cumulative selectivity for said logical node.
18. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein said means for calculating a cumulative selectivity for said logical node includes a representation of all selectivities for all dimension tables in said logical node.

19. (Original) The article of claim 13, wherein said means for determining commitment of said logical node for push down to said fact table includes mitigation of search space traversal.